

HTAA e-Bulletin

February 2013



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Welcome

2012 proved to be another busy year, with many activities on the HTA calendars.

The HTAA national conference was held in Perth during October. Delegates came from all over Australia as well as Japan. The conference covered all manner of history – from the concept of Big History and how a history of emotions can inform our historical understanding, to personal history from people of diverse backgrounds, which gives us an insight into Australia's heritage and contemporary issues. Educators from primary, secondary and tertiary institutions shared their passions and expertise with delegates eager to enhance their knowledge and pedagogy.

The 2013 HTAA conference will be held in Canberra during April. This is a historic year for our nation's capital, marking its centenary celebrations. It is particularly fitting that the conference be hosted in the ACT. Don't forget to register.

In December 2012, ACARA published the senior Ancient History and Modern History curriculums on the Australian Curriculum website. As Rob Randall has pointed out in previous meetings, each state and territory will be responsible for the implementation of the senior courses. When this will occur depends

on requirements within each state or territory. Undoubtedly each HTA affiliate will be keenly interested in the changes proposed by their respective boards or authorities. For more information go to the website: australiancurriculum.edu.au.

The National History Challenge went international, at least in its content, with students asked to address the theme of People and Consequences from any time period and region. This change reflects the diverse histories on offer in the Australian Curriculum. The ceremony was the culmination of a three-day program for all the national winners and Young Historians from each state who travelled to Canberra. Special awards for long service were given to Angelique Bowe and Ian Murray who have been coordinators in Tasmania and Western Australia respectively. The Hon Peter Garrett AM announced Chloe Meffre as the Australian Young Historian.

Congratulations to all students who participated and all the teachers who encouraged them. A special thank you to all the coordinators and Richard Smith, Chair of the NHC, for such an outstanding Challenge and award ceremony.

Louise Secker
President, HTAA

Calendar

This calendar is a monthly guide to what is coming up in 2013. Please visit each state association's website for more information about the events and professional learning (PL) sessions that you see on the calendar.

	February	March
	Simpson Prize winners and runners-up attend Canberra tour (VIC) Teaching the Australian Curriculum: History 7–10 PL (VIC) Teachers New to VCE History PL (VIC) VCE Unit 3 Conference (VIC) VCE 20th Century Unit 1 PL	National History Challenge Launch (NSW) New Teacher Day (NSW) Student Awards Night (NSW) Stage 6 History (TAS, VIC, QLD) Annual General Meetings (TAS) TMAG Colonial Gallery PL (VIC) IB & VCE Unit 3 Student Lectures
April	May	June
HTAA National Conference Australian History Competition registration closes Simpson Prize winners attend Gallipoli Tour (QLD) Young Historians Workshop	Australian History Competition runs (NSW) Bingara PL (NSW) Wollongong PL (NSW) Temora PL (VIC) Implementing the Australian Curriculum: History 7–10 PL	(QLD) State Conference (NSW) HSC Study Days (VIC) VCE 20th Century Unit 2 PL
July	August	September
(VIC) Annual Conference (NSW) State Conference	(VIC) IB & VCE Unit 4 Student Lectures (VIC) Primary Conference (VIC) Member Event	(TAS) Military Museum Learning Resources Launch
October	November	December
(TAS) One-day State Conference (VIC) IB & VCE Exam Refresher Student Lectures (VIC) Middle Years Conference	(VIC) Teachers New to VCE History PL (NSW) Headstart to Extension History PL	

Competition News

National History Challenge

The National History Challenge presentation in the Mural Hall of Parliament House took place on November 27 2012.



The Hon. Peter Garrett, Minister for School Education, presented the National winners with their medallions and prizes. The National Young Historian was Chloe Meffre from Princes Street Primary School, Tasmania. Speaking about Chloe's entry, Minister Peter Garrett said, 'Chloe's winning entry was a wonderful museum exhibit, "The Travels of Lady Jane," focussing on Lady Jane Franklin who was the first European woman to travel overland from Port Philip to Sydney, and who was a great champion of secondary education for boys and girls. I congratulate Chloe and all the winners of the 2012 National History Challenge.'

The ceremony was the culmination of the winning students' visit to Canberra, which involved many behind the scenes events with the sponsor national institutions. Minister Peter Garrett used the ceremony to announce the 2013 theme, 'Legend, Fact and History' and encouraged students to enter the Challenge. Information about the 2013 will be available on the website (historychallenge.org.au) from mid-February.

Teachers, please register your schools and consider building the Challenge into your curriculums or using it as an extension activity. Entry is open to students of Australian schools from primary to senior levels. Relevance to the theme is vital in every entry but the Challenge is now open to any area or period of history.

Richard Smith

Chairman, National History Challenge



The winning students pose with Minister Peter Garrett at the National History Challenge Awards at Parliament House.

Simpson Prize



We were very pleased with the steady growth in students participating in the 2012 Simpson Prize. The introduction of a question which required students to make explicit use of primary sources was well received across the nation. We are very excited about the 2013 question, which asks students to make use of their own research and a selection of sources chosen from the vast trove of sources within the collection of the Australian War Memorial.

The aim of the 2013 Simpson Prize Competition is to further extend our expedition into the rich domain of primary sources. Guided by the question, students will encounter a new set of selected sources. Accompanied by a marking rubric, teachers of Years Nine and Ten have an instant classroom resource or extension activity. It is a complete package.

As we draw closer to the centenary of the landings at Anzac Cove, we envisage a greater number of students and teachers will engage with the Simpson Prize Competition and enjoy the challenge and rigour of this new format.

Paul Foley

Chairman, Simpson Prize

Australian History Competition

In 2013 the competition will again be offered at two separate levels:

- Year 10 competition will be broadly based on the Australian History Curriculum for years 9 & 10
- A Year 8 competition will be broadly based on the Australian History Curriculum for years 7 & 8.



At both levels the focus will be on engaging students with interesting skills-based questions.

Key Dates for 2013

12 April 2013 – Entry and registration close.

29 May 2013 – Year 8 and Year 10 competitions.

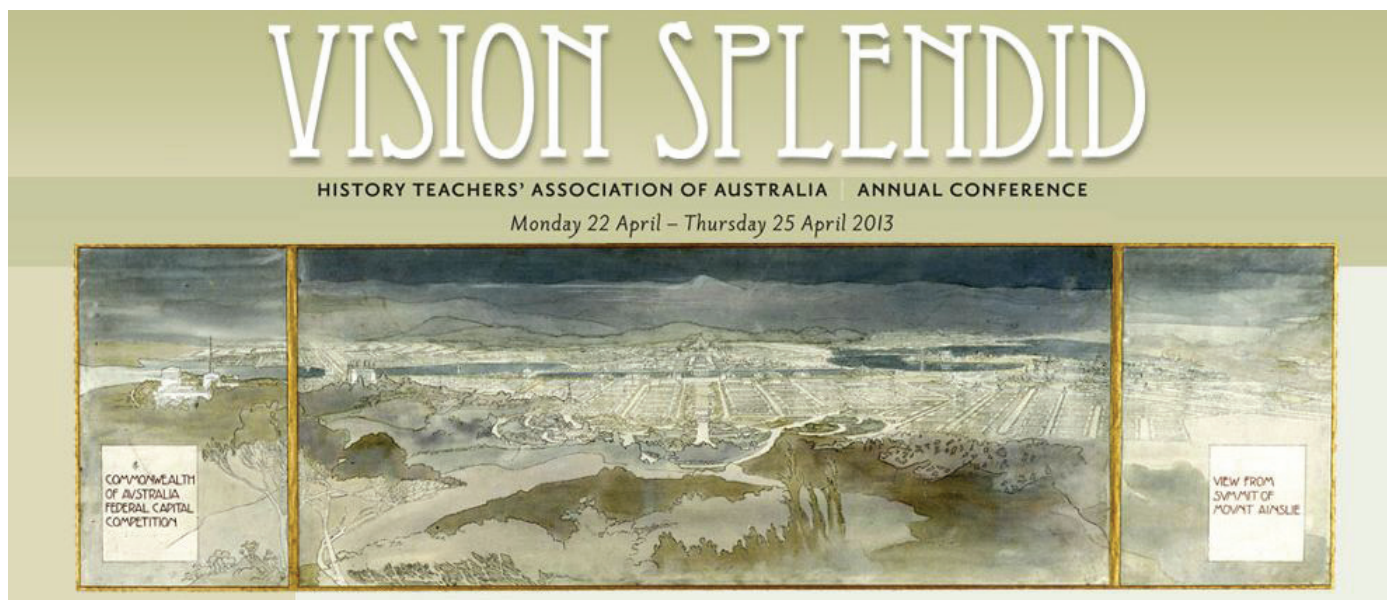
More details online:

www.australianhistorycompetition.com.au

Paul Kiem

Professional Officer, HTANSW

HTAA National Conference 2013



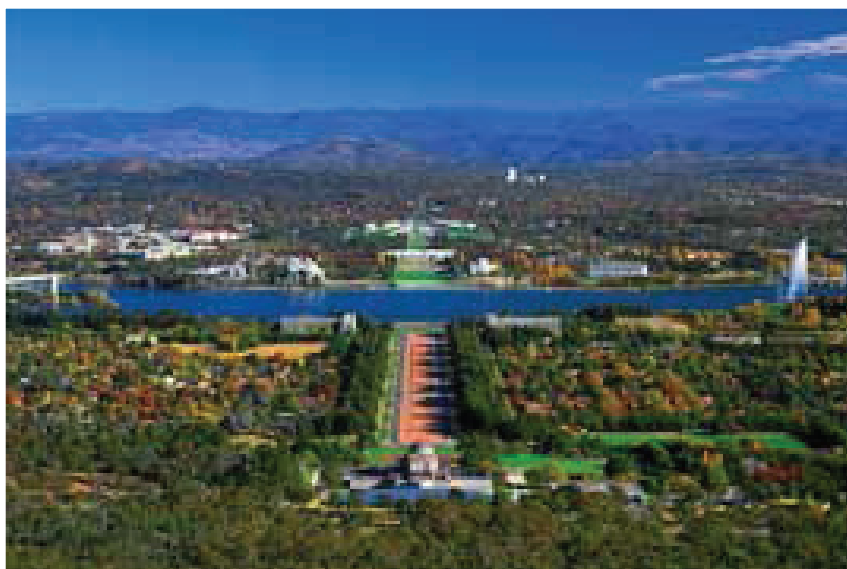
Monday 22 April – Wednesday 24 April 2013, incorporating Anzac Day 25 April.

Celebrate the history and heritage of our nation as Canberra turns 100 in 2013.

Immerse yourself in the Australian History Curriculum and participate in a special centenary format incorporating Anzac Day and exploration of the national capital's cultural institutions.

Registration fee includes:

- attendance at conference workshop sessions
- conference bag and program
- morning teas and lunches
- one ticket to the Welcome Reception at National Museum of Australia
- one ticket to the National Archives of Australia cocktail function
- one ticket to the Government House reception
- attendance at the Anzac Day breakfast
- coach transfers from preferred accommodation venues throughout the conference (subject to availability)



To register and view the full program please visit: www.htaaconference2013.org.au



Australian Capital Territory

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The 2012 presentation of the ACT awards of the National History Challenge were well attended. The ceremony was held at the National Archives of Australia and the guest speaker was Caroline P. Cooper, author of *The Forgotten Holocaust: A Gypsy's Journey from Auschwitz to Freedom*. Caroline gave a fascinating address on what had inspired her to write about the fate of the gypsies under Nazism and how her story was one of hope for reconciliation. She gave great encouragement to our budding historians to become historical fiction writers as a way of exploring our nation's stories.

Once again it was wonderful to see such a fantastic array of work, demonstrating the diligence and historiography of our students. It is great to see students returning each year to the competition and therefore allowing us to see their skills development. I would like to thank our territory co-ordinator, Nanette Bragg, for her tireless work over many years and Nanette's 'shadow,' Louise Wright, who is learning the ropes and demonstrated excellent capacity for organisation.

During the year our members have been involved in

the Simpson Prize trip to Gallipoli, in the Department of Veteran Affairs Schools Anzac Day Awards judging, assessing websites for DVA and NAA, and in negotiations with the ACT Education and Training Department on national curriculum initiatives. However, the main focus of our activities has been on the 2013 National History Conference which will be held here in the nation's capital from April 22 – 25 inclusive. We are working with academics, education practitioners and personnel from the cultural institutions to ensure that we present a conference which offers stimulating professional learning and 'hands on' activities. We, as a very small association, are grateful for the sponsorship of HTAA, the Canberra 100, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Archives of Australia, the Museum of Australian Democracy, the National Museum of Australia, the Australian War Memorial and the National Capital Education and Tourism Project without whose help we would not be in a position to host the conference.

Hilary Brettell
President, ACTHTA

Northern Territory

W: <http://www.seant.org.au/>

The second half of 2012 was a learning experience as GHTANT emerged from SEANT and expanded its activities through observer affiliation with the History Teachers' Association of Australia. Highlights have included:

- National History Challenge NT entries judged in NT for the first time, with members participating in the marking. The NT Young Historian 2012 Meika Liveris attended the national awards presentation in Canberra, with her film about Anzacs at Gallipoli on display.
- The Simpson Prize NT entries were also judged in NT for the first time, by a panel of teachers, local historians and ADF representatives.
- Several council members attended the HTAA conference in Perth in October and gained a new perspective on history in its Australian Curriculum form.
- Professional development sessions on skills in Australian Curriculum: History and integrating History competitions into programming were seen as very useful by teachers.

- Our website is still being transitioned to GHTANT and has been used more frequently to provide information.
- A survey to provide information about teacher professional development preferences for History was distributed and will help guide our activities in future.

Kate Minahan
President, GHTANT



Participants at the HTAA Conference in Darwin, 2012

Queensland



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Travelling North

The most significant event for QHTA this year was our venture north to Cairns to try to spread our professional development events. Because Queensland is such a large state, teachers in many areas of Queensland are too far away to attend the State Conference in Brisbane. After promising to do something about this for the last few years, we finally got ourselves in gear and headed north.

July in Cairns is not too hard to take, especially when the day is picture perfect, the water is like crystal, the but I digress!

St Augustine's hosted us in Cairns and with the help of dedicated and enthusiastic local talent we were able to present what participants thought was a very worthwhile day.

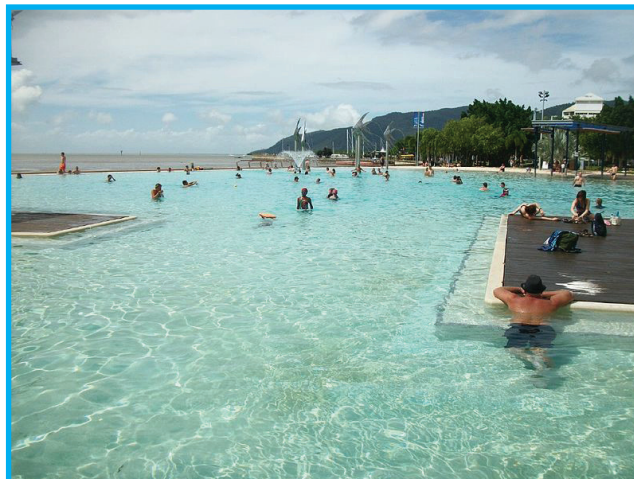
A regular and very important event each year is our Patrons' Dinner. Our patrons are always ready to support anything QHTA does and they provide their time unstintingly and enthusiastically. We held the 2012 event at the Greek Club, as we have done before, and it provides a very fitting 'historical' venue for us.

Dr Russell Cowie's health makes it difficult for him to attend such events now but he has always been a staunch supporter. He will be particularly celebrated in the *QHistory Journal* as a member of the original Executive.

Our state conference was a success with over 200 participants and in December we managed to run another conference – what we call our Junior History Day. This was held at the State Library with over 150 participants. The focus was bringing teachers up to speed with the Australian Curriculum: History. The year was busier than usual with virtually three conferences, a huge achievement for such a small organisation.

Kay Bishop

President, QHTA



Top: The crystal blue waters of Cairns!

Bottom: Two of our illustrious patrons, Josie James and Emeritus Professor Bob Milns. Also present were Dr Brian Hoepper and Emeritus Professor Colin Mackerras.

New South Wales

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2012 was another busy year for HTANSW, with the normal program of activities accompanied by some new ideas:

- The launch of a Facebook and Twitter account will complement the webpage and publications in allowing us to alert members to opportunities, particularly when they arise at short notice. Left in the capable hands of our youngest Executive members, HTA's 'social media arm' already has a strong following.
- Early in 2012 a number of HTA members went on the first of 'BC & AD Tours' study trips to Cambodia. Especially designed for history teachers, these study tours are offered at a significant discount to HTA members. The tour group came back from Cambodia with rave reviews. A highlight was the time spent with Prof. Roland Fletcher and University of Sydney's Greater Angkor Archaeology team. These tour programs provide unique access and great value for HTA members – see stepbackintimetours.com.au.
- While the focus of regional professional development is to support teachers in remote areas, in 2012 HTA ran a professional development day in Newcastle for the first time in many years. The strong support for this day suggests that larger provincial cities also provide a great location for reaching many teachers who struggle to make it to Sydney. Newcastle will be repeated in the near future. Meanwhile, in 2013 HTA's regional program will go to Wollongong for the first time in a long while.

An initiative for 2013 will be the establishment of a scholarship that will allow a tertiary student to undertake a study tour to a World War I battlefield. Aimed at identifying and showcasing outstanding history education students, this award will provide a significant incentive and a highly relevant experience for anyone who is preparing to teach Australian history. This scholarship has been made possible through the generous support of the Families and Friends of the First AIF (fffaif.org.au). It will sit nicely alongside HTA's own \$10,000 sponsorship of the NSW Premier's History Scholarship.

HTANSW was saddened to hear of the death of Professor AGL Shaw in April 2012. Prof. Shaw combined a highly-regarded academic career with an extraordinary range of community involvement. One of his earliest activities was to lend his support to the establishment of HTANSW – he became its foundation Chairman (President) in 1955 and foundation journal editor in 1961. Prof. Shaw has the distinction of being commemorated in a gargoyle at Melbourne University's Trinity College.

In NSW, 2013 will be the year when preparations for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum: History will begin in earnest. We also hope to see more clarity emerge around plans for the senior history courses. With teachers turning their minds to programming and resourcing, there should be a lot of interest in both the HTAA National Conference (National Library, Canberra: 22-25 April) and the HTANSW State Conference (Sydney University: 26-27 July).

Paul Kiem

Professional Officer, HTANSW



Top: HTANSW's President, Bernie Howitt, making the front page of *The Australian* with his class.

Above: HTANSW's foundation President, Professor AGL Shaw, commemorated in a bronze gargoyle at Melbourne University's Trinity College.

Western Australia

HTAWA

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Have I Got a Story for You?

AISWA invites Australian Authors to the HTAA Conference

The process of historical inquiry is a rich source of many wonderful stories and provides a genuine 'hook' for asking questions and finding clues to stimulate imagination and curiosity.

During 2011 a group of authors were invited to participate in a series of workshops for an AISWA Australian Government Quality Teacher Program (AGQTP) project, *When English meets History: Exploring the Faction Genre through Action Research*. As a result of this project, the teachers involved, not only had the opportunity to become familiar with the Australian Curriculum: English and History, but became aware of the many curriculum links and classroom ideas that can be used when teaching History and integrating English literature. A highlight of this 2011 project was a professional learning day with four distinguished authors who described their process of historical research and the way they weave fiction between the facts.

The theme of *My History Your History Our History* seemed a perfect opportunity to introduce historical fiction to the 2012 HTAA Conference. Engaging stories of our past were told by award-winning writers as storytellers. For this reason, AISWA were delighted to invite and sponsor this same group of local West Australian authors, Mark Greenwood, Dianne Wolfer and Norman Jorgensen, as well as Kirsty Murray and Jackie French from the eastern states, to be part of the HTAA Conference program.

Jackie French delivered a keynote address (*The Tyrant Below: How the Land itself has Shaped our Nation*) and a workshop session (*History in Stories*). Both sessions were well received and, as one participant stated, 'Jackie provided food-for-thought on a totally different level.' Another commented it was 'useful in terms of emotional responses to history and teaching as well as reinforcing the clear links between civilization and the land.' Overall, with the vast array of stories in Jackie French's collection, it provides a 'fantastic introduction to "interrogate" Australia's written history and think about different perspectives,' as another participant noted. Teachers notes are available for her books, *Hitler's Daughter* (nate.org.uk/cmsfiles/news/00000421.pdf) and *A Waltz for Matilda* (harpercollins.com/harperimages/ommoveoverride/a_waltz_for_matilda_tns.pdf).

Kirsty Murray's presentation, *Home and Away: Five Ways to Talk about Immigration*, was particularly relevant after the wonderful Migration panel session on day two of the conference. The Children of the Wind series and *India Dark* (goodreadingmagazine.com.au/data/teaching_notes/11670.pdf) were the novels featured in Kirsty's workshop. Participants noted exceptional application in the classroom by using these inspirational stories to evoke empathy and young adult perspectives found in these stories.

Mark Greenwood's workshop *Breathing Life into History* on day three provided a glimpse of how a single primary source object can lead to an exciting story. Mark is an author with a passion for history and legends. He has twice received the West Australian Premier's Award for children's books: *The Legend of Moondyne Joe* and *The Legend of Lasseter's Reef*. He has also published *Fortuyn's Ghost*, the story of an ill-fated Dutch East India ship. Delegates who attended the conference dinner the previous night at Fremantle Prison were treated to a serve of Mark's tantalising anecdotes, as he entertained us with a few Moondyne Joe stories, especially well-received by our colleagues from the eastern states, many of them historians but hearing these 'wild west' tales for the first time!

Historical objects were also a key feature of Dianne Wolfer's workshop *Snapshots into History: weaving historical moments into engaging fiction through the eyes of young characters*. Wolfer's books include *Lighthouse Girl*, which is based on the true story of Faye Howe. As the teacher's notes explore (diannewolfer.com/lighthouse_teach.pdf) this gentle tale brings to life the hardships of those left at home during the WWI – waiting, wondering and hoping. In *Photographs in the Mud*, Wolfer captures events of the time. Set on the Kokoda Track in 1942, one battle is seen through the eyes of an Australian soldier, a Japanese soldier and the families that wait for them.

Norman Jorgensen enticed us to his session with the notion of *All My Own Work? Fact or Fiction*, which again gave the participants an insight into this author's vast knowledge of historical facts and passion for a good story. Exploring his books – including *In Flanders Fields*, *Jack's Island* and *The Last Viking* – this session gave us another look at our history topics from the perspective of very real characters. As Fleur Mason wrote in the *Fremantle Gazette* of Jorgensen's work, 'Jack's Island is a poignant look at the hardships of war, strong family morals,

including the occasional hiding dishd out to youngsters, and the importance of helping neighbours. Jorgensen's characters are lovable and when I shared their adventures there was no doubt life was tough during the war but I felt admiration for their nobility?

The addition of these authors to the HTAA program was a real treat and a fabulous insight into how historical sources and research are used to 'follow a trail' in search of factual information, see how characters (sometimes fictional) are created and finally how a story is constructed to explain, entertain and engage us in events of the past. The authors' websites feature information on their historical fiction titles, curriculum links and teacher's notes ready for classroom use. In addition to this you can contact them to arrange a school visit. Imagine having a storyteller in your classroom that uses historical sources! Have I got a story for you – what a 'hands-on' way to engage your students in history!

Maree Whiteley

AISWA Curriculum Consultant: Humanities and Social Sciences

HTAA/HTAWA Primary History Consultant



Jackie French delivering her presentation at the HTAA National Conference in 2012.

South Australia

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This year we began our professional development for the association at the Parade Ground Headquarters of History SA. This refresher day provided invaluable support for our Year 12 teachers who are embracing the changes to the SACE History curriculum.

Our State Conference on Friday, July 27 2012 at the Art Gallery of South Australia was an outstanding success with over 138 delegates in attendance! The theme 'History: Questions and Answers,' was most apt as teachers were hungry for ideas and resources in their implementation of the Australian Curriculum. The keynote speaker Dr Peter Stanley opened the conference with a thoughtful and challenging presentation which asked educators, 'How should we treat the idea of Anzac? If it is a secular religion, are we theologians or evangelists?'

Our revision lecture series for students continue to be held at two venues. The first of these was at Trinity College, Gawler and the second at the University of Adelaide. The number of students at Adelaide University was extremely

satisfying – a capacity of 250! We were indebted to our tertiary presenter Dr Gareth Pritchard who presented a revision lecture which had students engaged and excited about having made the right decision to study History in Year Twelve.

Congratulations also to the HTAA for the bold and exciting initiative of launching the Australian History Competition in 2011 and its successful running of the competition in 2012. The HTASA also contributed to the delivery of professional development in Port Augusta in November. The appreciation demonstrated by attending teachers certainly encourages the association to extend our frequency in delivering professional development to teachers in regional areas. The HTASA looks forward to the 2013 academic year and every opportunity to support and invigorate the teaching of history throughout South Australia.

Paul Foley

President, HTASA

Tasmania

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Exciting times for the THTA

The Tasmanian History Teachers' Association is experiencing a period of great success and also of positive change. Building on the outstanding results of Tasmanian students in the 2012 National History Challenge, the THTA are planning for some major changes in 2013.

Tasmanian students achieved our best results ever in the 2012 National History Challenge with seven national winners:

- National Young Historian – Chloe Meffre (Princes Street Primary School)
- Year Level 10 – Connie Beswick – ‘Edith Cowan’ (The Friends’ School)
- Year Level 9 – Emily Doi – ‘European Explorers,’ (Tarooma High School)
- Year Level 7 – Benjamin Van Der Niet – ‘The Burke and Wills Expedition’ (The Friends’ School)
- Year Level F-6 – Lily Zeeman – ‘Olegas Truchanas and Peter Drombovskis’ (Princes Street Primary School)
- Australian Democracy – Isaac Semmler – ‘Bob Brown’ (Princes Street Primary School)
- Museum Exhibit – Chloe Meffre – ‘The Journeys of Lady Jane Franklin’ (Princes Street Primary School)

During 2012, planning was undertaken for some structural changes in the THTA which will be launched in 2013. A new constitution has been prepared. I would like to acknowledge the support of Nick Ewbank and the ACTHTA for their assistance with this document. The annual AGM will now be held in March each year and will be timed to align with annual membership subscriptions. Additional support is planned for history teachers across

the state for 2013 with grants available for localised clusters to coordinate professional learning and other projects. This will assist in our goal to be a truly state-wide association.

A number of professional learning initiatives are planned for the year ahead. A state one day conference supported by the HTAA will be held at Clarence High School on October 1. The Association will also align closely with the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and other major history institutions in running seminars and workshops. Details of these and other events will be available via our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/TasmanianHistoryTeachersAssociation) and via infostream.

David Boon

President, THTA



Chloe Meffre, 2012 National Young Historian.

The inaugural HTAV Kids Conference in December 2012 kicked off with a bang. Students of all ages gathered at the Australian Catholic University (ACU) to share their thoughts about using ICT in the history classroom. Stephen Spain, an ACU History lecturer, opened the conference by noting modern students come ‘ready wired for ICT.’ Tapping into these skills and accepting our students are digital natives presents history teachers with so many teaching possibilities. Spain highlighted the opportunities ICT presents for students to ‘step into the shoes of a historian,’ producing meaningful and engaging historical texts.

Cameron Blight, a Year 10 student at Alkira College, demonstrated his iPhone/iPad app. The app, created for a self-directed research assignment, compared China’s past with its present day. Cameron pointed out that the process of developing the app – available free to all on the App Store – allowed him to learn at a deeper level. Cameron’s teacher, Dr Barbara Joseph, argued using ICT is about historical rather than ICT skills – a sentiment echoed throughout the conference.

Hamish Beshara of Sacred Heart College delivered a presentation (‘Making History with Digital Stories’) about his collaboration with Museum Victoria’s Making History online project. Hamish, supported by his teacher Marilyn Hoysted, set about researching his own family history and developed a short film for the Museum Victoria website. Hamish noted that in comparison to other research assignments, the Making History project allowed him to engage with personally important historical data, be a historian and develop his ICT skills.

Georgia Balaska of Sacred Heart Primary School brought five of her students along to discuss ICT integration in their

history classroom. They discussed programs like Prezi and PowerPoint as well as developing wikis and movies. Kiara Bayros, aged eleven, suggested using ICT in the classroom allowed the learning to be more emotive and effective. James Sezenias, also aged eleven, made clear that using a variety of media to convey knowledge was a great way to tackle new ideas.

Tristan Spain of University High continued the conference by presenting on the topic of ‘Building History with Minecraft,’ a block-building game which encourages creativity and collaboration. Tristan highlighted many of the possibilities inherent in using a game like Minecraft in the classroom. He spoke about global collaboration and the ability to develop to-scale 3D explorable replicas of historical monuments to enhance appreciation of scale.

Rounding out the presentations, Bree Monks and Brianna McLeod, pre-service primary teachers at ACU, discussed the potential of Voicethread for classroom use. An online tool for voice-image-video and text collaboration, Monks and McLeod argued Voicethread presents excellent opportunities for students to collaborate in a creative and flexible way. They also noted the possibility of developing a virtual classroom featuring online, 24/7 learning which challenges and supports all types of students.

All in all, the inaugural HTAV Kids Conference was a resounding success. Participants left with a sense that ICT can be fun and learning-oriented. Participants also generated some great ideas to try in the classroom this year.

Phillipa Wan

Graduate Teacher, Australian Catholic University